(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to encourage the use of the wireless local loop system so as to improve the telephone services in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras in collaboration with M/s Analog Devices Inc., USA has taken up development of wireless local loop system based on the Digital Enhanced Cordless Technology standard.

(c) and (d). Telephone communication is affected as compared to conventional wireline systems during bad weather conditions and hence reduces the dependence on the services of lineman.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Govt. has plans to introduce wireless local loop system in Telecom network. A generic specification giving requirements of such system, has already been prepared. Such of those wireless in local loop systems which broadly meet with the requirements, are subjected to field trial if they are offered by the companies. The system developed by IIT Madras is proposed to be tried in the Madras Telephone network.

Agitated Workers of Bulb Factories

2100. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether in Kanpur the agitation of workers of Miniature Bulb factories, is at its peak for their unattended long pending demands;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to stop the agitation and resolve the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) At present, no agitation of workers is going on in the Miniature Bulb Industries in Kanpur. The workers started an agitation w.e.f. 1.9.96 to press their demands which was subsequently resolved with the intervention of the Labour Department of Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The workers were demanding fixation of piece rate wages on the basis of the scheduled minimum wages, and implementing the provisions of the Factory Act and various other labour laws.

(c) Following a bipartite meeting held on 19.9.96, it was agreed to refer the demands of the workers to the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Kanpur for an informal arbitration. After hearing both the parties, the Deputy Labour Commissioner gave his award on 10.10.96. Since then, there is no dispute between the concerned parties and production is going on smoothly.

Promotion of SC/ST

2101. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain proposals for promotion of selection grade officers working in Zonal Railways and Railway Board Office belonging to SC/ST Categories to Senior Administrative Grades are pending for the last 8 months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether some of such officers are likely to retire in near future with no other chance of further promotion are feeling disgusted and humiliated over unnecessary delay in their promotion;

(d) whether such officers have to suffer heavy monetary losses in case orders for their promotion are not issued by December, 1996;

(e) whether the Government propose to approve these proposals immediately; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchange in Goa

2102. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open more telephone exchanges in Goa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A new telephone exchange of C-DOT 256 is proposed to be opened at Armbol (Harmal), North Goa, before March, 97. In addition, the exchanges at Madgaon, Cansaulin, Verca, Sangol and Aladona are being expanded.

Corruption Complaints in Darbhanga and Ranchi

2103. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rampant corruption is existing in telephone offices in Darbhanga and Ranchi Telecom Units;

(b) if so, the number of cases registered during the last three years; and

(c) the case-wise details of the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. However, a few cases of irregularities have been noticed.

(b)

Year	Ranchi	Darbhanga
1993	1	1
1994	4	Nil
1995	3	2

(c) Details are given in annexure.

ANNEXURE

Name of the Officer	Action Taken
RANCHI	
Year 1993	
1. Shri A.K. Sinha, TDM and others	Disc. Action initiated and after due consideration proceedings dropped.
Year 1994	
1. Shri A.K. Sinha, TDM	Administrative action taken for lapses.
2. Shri A.K. Sinha, TDM	Case registered by CBI is under investigation.
3. Shri P. Panjiyara, STT	Disc. action for major penalty has been initiated.
4. Shri Mundrika Singh, AE Shri R.B. Singh, AD (TRA)	Proceedings for major penalty are in progress.
Year 1995	
1. Shri R.B. Singh, STT	Allegations could not be established.
2. Shri B.B. Hembram, TDE	-do-
3. Shri Madanpuri, TDE	-do-
DARBHANGA	
Year 1993	
1. Shri P.N. Jha, AE (G) Jhanjharpur	Officer transferred and proceedings for major penalty initiated.
Year 1994	Nil
Year 1995	
1. Shri S.S. Jha, TDE	Case under consideration for initiating suitable disciplinary action.
2. Shri R.C. Jha, AE(G)	Case is under investigation by CBI.

[English]

Probe into Licences for Cellular Services

2104. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to probe into the licenses issued for cellular and other telecommunication services during the tenure of the office of the former Telecommunication Minister; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The Department has at present no proposal to order probe into the licenses issued for Cellular and Other telecom services so far, since the licenses were issued after study of the bids received in accordance with tender conditions and approval of the competent authority.

[Translation]

Shifting of DHQ Post Office

2105. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is also a fact that the DHQ Post Office has been shifted nearer to the Prime Minister Office;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the criteria fixed for the security of the Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The DHQ Post Office has been shifted to the alternate accommodation provided by the Ministry of Defence near 'B' Block at the request of the Ministry of Defence in order to give a clear frontage to Gate No. 11 of South Block.

(c) Since the proposal for giving alternate accommodation for the DHQ Post Office had come from the Ministry of Defence, the security aspect might have been kept in view by the Defence Authorities.

[English]

Misappropriation of Amount by Booking Clerks

2106. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a heavy amount was misappropriated through Pay Orders by the Booking Clerks of the New Delhi Railway Station in the year 1995 and the case was handed over to CBI for further investigations;

(b) if so, whether the investigations have been completed;